

28 February 1968

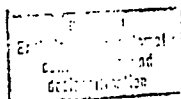
MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, E/G

SUBJECT : Birthday Present and Recognition
of General Gehlen's Retirement

1. E/G/CE is currently exploring the possibilities of appropriate recognition of General GEHLEN's retirement on 1 May 1968 as first and only chief of the BND, plus attempting to determine what might be a suitable gift on the occasion of his sixty-sixth birthday on 3 April 1968. It has been Agency custom to cable appropriate greetings from senior officials on each birthday, and the Munich Base chief usually presents a small gift. In 1962, when Gehlen became 60, the Agency presented him with an American eagle plaque for wall display in his office. He has received other tokens at various times from various officers with whom he has been in close contact. He is particularly interested in electronic gadgetry. In late 1967, Munich Base requested EUCA in Frankfurt to determine prices on a VHF paging system, but later cancelled the request. E/G/CE has asked the Office of Communications at Headquarters what might be available along the line of a glorified walkie-talkie, or a similar device. In the meantime, Munich Base should be asked to contribute their thinking.

2. Presentation of an Agency medal in recognition of the close cooperation between the services has also been suggested. It has been determined that the Agency awards medals in various degrees, all of which are Agency attributable, and that approving authorities are reluctant to award these medals to foreign, or other non-Agency affiliated personnel. There is a regulation and form designed to request consideration for an Agency award, which E/G/CE is attempting to procure to see what steps are necessary. It should be added that the BND has for award to various worthy individuals a non-attributable medal, depicting St. George slaying the dragon on one side and the date of BND legalization

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on the other. Agency personnel have received the bronze edition of the BND award, and a gold edition was presented to Mr. Dulles. [] indicated that the Agency has on a few occasions presented a miniature Agency seal to foreign liaison representatives, but indicated it is not a usual practice.

3. The following sequence is suggested:

- a. present General Gehlen with electronic gadget for his birthday
 - b. present General Gehlen with whatever medal or insignia the Agency will allow on his retirement date (in Munich)
 - c. provide ceremonial rite should he come for farewell trip to Washington
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